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POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R2000-1/121

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2000-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING
GRANTING EXTENSION OF TIME FOR RESPONSES
TO NOTICE OF INQUIRY NO. 4

(Issued August 16, 2000)

On August 2, 2000 the Commission issued Notice of Inquiry No. 4 Concerning Mail Processing Variability Models. It requested that participants consider a number of complex issues, and file responsive testimony or comments within 14 days.

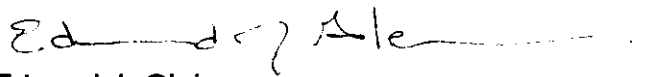
A Joint Motion of the Office of the Consumer Advocate and United Parcel Service for Extension of Time to Respond to Notice of Inquiry No. 4 (Motion), was filed August 15, 2000. The Motion recites the complexity of the issues involved and the press of other rate case deadlines as justification for the requested extension. The Motion asks that the date for responses be extended nine days, until August 25, 2000.

The Motion is opposed, in part, by a Response of the United States Postal Service to Joint Motion of the OCA and UPS for Extension of Time to Respond to NOI No. 4, filed August 16, 2000. The Postal Service contends that other participants will not have an adequate opportunity to evaluate responses to NOI No. 4, and prepare to cross-examine any testimony submitted, if the full nine-day extension is granted. The Postal Service points out that other participants have been subject to the same rate case related workload and suggests that a shorter extension, until August 21, 2000, should be adequate.

I will grant the requested extension. The subject matter of NOI No. 4 is such that it is understandable that additional time to prepare cogent and informative response may be necessary. The complexity of the subject matter also supports the Postal Service concern that adequate time be available for participants to prepare to cross-examine any testimony provided in response to NOI No. 4. Therefore, a tentative additional hearing date will be set to receive any testimony filed in response to NOI No. 4. That date is September 6, 2000.

RULING

1. The Joint Motion of the Office of the Consumer Advocate and United Parcel Service for Extension of Time to Respond to Notice of Inquiry No. 4, filed August 15, 2000, is granted. Responses from interested participants may be filed on or before August 25, 2000.
2. If testimony is filed in response to Notice of Inquiry No. 4, an additional day of hearings will be held on September 6, 2000 to receive that testimony.


Edward J. Gleiman
Presiding Officer